

Claims

1. Within a telecommunications network, a method of conducting covert surveillance of a subject, said surveillance including surveillance of a monitored call connected over the network, said call being between the subject and an associate and including call progress data as well as circuit-switched or packet-switched call content comprising bearer traffic exchanged between the subject and the associate, said method comprising:
 - (a) clandestinely receiving the circuit-switched call content;
 - (b) converting the received circuit-switched call content into a packet-switched format; and,
 - (c) delivering the call content in the packet-switched format to a designated law enforcement agency over a packet-switched data network.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises:
transmitting the received call content to the law enforcement agency in substantially real-time while the monitored call is in progress.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the received call content prior to step (c).
4. The method of claim 3, wherein step (c) further comprises:
providing the law enforcement agency with access to the stored call content; and,
transmitting the stored call content and call progress data to the law enforcement agency upon receipt of a request therefor from the law enforcement agency.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the received call content; and,
providing the law enforcement agency with access to the stored call content; and,

step (c) further comprises both: (i) transmitting the received call content to the law enforcement agency in substantially real-time while the monitored call is in progress; and, (ii) transmitting the stored call content to the law enforcement agency upon receipt of a request therefor from the law enforcement agency.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
applying data compression to the received call content in the packet-switched format.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
obtaining the call progress data; and,
storing the call progress data.

8. Within a telecommunications network, a system for conducting covert surveillance of a subject, said surveillance including surveillance of a monitored call connected over the network, said monitored call being between the subject and an associate and including circuit-switched or packet-switched call content comprising bearer traffic exchanged between the subject and the associate, said system comprising:

monitoring means for clandestinely receiving the circuit-switched or packet-switched call content;

translation means for converting the received circuit-switched call content into a packet-switched format; and,

transmission means for delivering the call content in the packet-switched format to a designated law enforcement agency.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the transmission means transmits the received call content to the law enforcement agency in substantially real-time while the monitored call is in progress.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:
storage means for storing the received call content prior to delivery by the transmission means.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

interface means for providing the law enforcement agency with access to the storage means to selectively obtain the stored call content therefrom; and,

5 wherein the transmission means transmits the stored call content to the law enforcement agency upon receipt of a request therefor from the law enforcement agency.

12. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

storage means for storing the received call content; and,

10 interface means for providing the law enforcement agency with access to the storage means to selectively obtain the stored call content therefrom; and,

wherein the transmission means both: (i) transmits the received call content to the law enforcement agency in substantially real-time while the monitored call is in progress; and, (ii) transmits the stored call content to the law enforcement agency upon receipt of a request therefor from the law enforcement agency.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the transmission means comprises a packet-switched data network.

20 **14.** The system of claim 8, wherein the translation means comprises a packet-switched gateway.

15. The system of claim 8, wherein the monitoring means comprises an application server complex implemented as an adjunct to a telecommunications switch providing service to the subscriber.